



May 12, 2011

## Rule Breakers – Lessons Learned



### Safety Tip of the Week

Road rage can be very costly!!!

**Example 1:** Nuclear power plant operators acted in violation of the plant's technical specifications. Operators ran the plant at very low power, without adequate safety precautions and without properly coordinating or communicating the procedure with safety personnel. Twenty-eight reactor and emergency workers died from radiation and thermal burns within four months of the accident, and 19 more by the end of 2004. Officials believe the accident also was responsible for about 4,000 cases of thyroid cancer.

**Lessons Learned:** Besides providing new impetus to nuclear safety research, especially on the management of severe nuclear accidents, the Chernobyl accident compelled authorities and experts to conduct a radical review of their understanding of, and attitude toward radiation protection and nuclear emergency issues. This resulted in greater knowledge of the effects and treatment of radiation, and a revitalization of radioecological research and monitoring programs, emergency procedures, and criteria and methods for informing the public. Furthermore, a substantial revision in these improvements is credited to several international cooperation initiatives, including revision and rationalization of radiation protection criteria for the management of accident consequences, as well as reinforcement or creation of international communication and assistance mechanisms to cope with the transboundary implications of potential nuclear accidents.

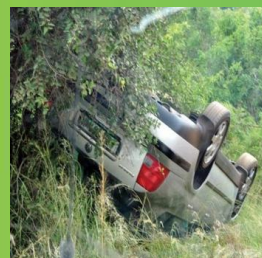
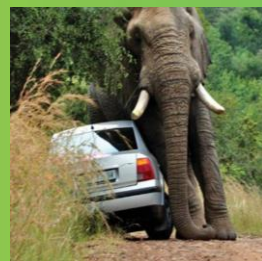
**Example 2:** A university student was killed when his scissor lift toppled over while he filmed football practice. The student was not trained to operate the lift, and wind gusts of 53 mph were not properly communicated to the student. The university was fined \$77,500 for five violations, including failure to maintain safe working conditions, and knowingly exposing its employees to unsafe conditions by directing its untrained student videographers to use the scissor lift during a period of time when the National Weather Service issued an active wind advisory with sustained winds and gusts in excess of the manufacturer's specifications and warnings.

**Lessons Learned:** The university's investigation report offered eight recommendations, all of which the school's president decided to implement. The university adopted the international maximum wind speed standard of 28 mph to operate any lift on campus, and employees will be given real time wind information whenever the lifts are in operation. Other recommendations included the appointment of safety contacts in each department who would have authority over the safety of all on-field personnel and a review of the university's protocol for lift operation and use. There also is a plan to develop a national education safety program so that the university can share its lessons learned. The university also installed a remote video system at its football practice fields and will no longer use scissor lifts to film football practice.

**Example 3:** A university student was killed inside a school lab when her hair was pulled into a piece of machine shop equipment. She had taken a safety course that included instructions to tie back long hair.

**Lessons Learned:** Always follow the policies, procedures and rules outlined for your work activities.

There are many examples where rule breakers caused great damage or injury. There is one common theme – not following the policies and procedures in place that govern the behavior and safety of yourself or others. It is important to understand that many rules are implemented after something has already gone wrong. These rules prevent a similar mishap from recurring. So, the next time you to decide to violate a rule (and let's hope that is never), take the time to ask yourself, "Why is that rule in place?" and "What are the consequences should I break the rule?" Each employee at KSC is always encouraged to simply, "Do the RIGHT Thing" every time! Keep in mind that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



If you have questions, comments, or a topic you would like to see addressed:  
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